

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending in the application prior to entering this amendment.

The Examiner allows claims 27-30 and 34-39.

The Examiner indicates allowable claims 23-26 if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-22 and 31-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tobita (U.S. Patent 4,980,799).

Applicants amend claims 1, 3-4, 6, 14, 16, 22-26 and 31 and add new claims 40-42.

Claims 1-42 remain in the case after entering this amendment.

Applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Claims Allowed

Applicants thank Examiner Yoha for allowing claims 27-30 and 34-39.

Claims Allowable

Applicants rewrite claims 23-26 in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Claims 23-26 and 40-42 are allowable.

Claim Rejections Under § 102(b)

The Examiner alleges Tobita's location of capacitor C1-C8 discloses the recited charge storing region. Applicants disagree for the reasons that follow.

Claim 1 recites a *first charge storing region arranged at one side of the core block and a second charge storing region distinct from the first storing region arranged at an opposite side of the one side*. Although Applicants agree that Tobita discloses the existence of a plurality of capacitors C1-C8, it fails to disclose their location relative to the sense amplifiers SA1-8 and memory arrays MA1-MA8. Tobita's Figure 9 is a "diagram showing a schematic arrangement of a capacitor used in a sense amplifier driving apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention." Tobita, column 10, lines 41-44. That is, Figure 9 is merely a description of circuit elements'¹ connections not of element location relative to other elements. Assuming that Figure 9 does actually locate the capacitors C1-C8 —a

¹ schematic (ski-mat'ik) *noun* —a diagram that shows a circuit's components and the connections between them using lines and a set of standard symbols to represent various electronic components. Microsoft Bookshelf 98.

proposition Applicants do not accept as disclosed in Tobita—, it locates them to the left of the sense amplifiers SA1-SA8 and memory arrays MA1-MA8. Tobita, therefore, does not disclose first and second charge regions arranged at opposite sides, of the core block.

The Examiner's citation of column 13, lines 30-35, fails to cure the deficiency as it describes only that the "4 mega dynamic random access memory cell array is generally divided into 8 sub arrays as shown in Fig. 5, so that if it is constituted to be provided with a single capacitor 34 for each of the sub blocks as shown in Fig. 9." The passage provides for no description of the capacitors' C1-C8 location relative to the sense amplifiers SA1-SA8 and memory arrays MA1-MA8 identified collectively by the Examiner as disclosing the recited core block. Claims 1-5 are, therefore, allowable.

Claim 6 recites *a first charge storing region disposed at one side of the core block and a second charge storing region disposed at another side of the core block different than the one side*. Claim 14 recites *first and second charge storing regions respectively disposed at opposing sides of the core block*. Claim 31 recites *first and second charge storing regions disposed at first and second sides, respectively, of the core block*. For example, the first charge storing region may be disposed on a top side of the core block while the second storing region may be disposed at a bottom side of the core block. For another example, the first charge storing region may be disposed at a right side of the core block while the second storing region may be disposed at a left side of the core block. Other arrangements are contemplated to come within the scope of the claims. These example arrangements are just that, example arrangements.

The Examiner alleges Tobita discloses the recited first and second charge storing regions as being where capacitors C1 and C8 are located to a side of blocks MA1 and MA8, respectively. As we offer above, Figure 9 is a schematic block diagram that does not disclose the capacitors C1-C8's location relative to the sense amplifiers SA1-SA8 and the memory cell arrays MA1-MA8. But even if Figure 9 did disclose the location of capacitors C1 and C8, it is a location to a *same side*—a single side and not two distinct sides as recited—of the sense amplifiers SA1-8 and memory arrays MA1-MA8, collectively, and not individually, identified by the Examiner as disclosing the recited core block. As such, the capacitors C1 and C8's location does not disclose the recited *one and another side* or *opposing sides* or *first and second sides* of the first and second charge storing regions, respectively. Claims 6-22 are, therefore, allowable.

Conclusion

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all claims. Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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